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REFERENCE TO: GS-S201

CHICOM ROAD CONSTRUCTION NORTHERN LAOS MUONG SAI, LAOS 20-41N 101-59E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BOARD DEPICTS THE RESUMPTION OF CHINESE COMMUNIST ROAD CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS IN THE MUONG SAI AREA OF NORTHERN LAOS.

2. LOCATION:

MUONG SAI IS LOCATED IN NORTHERN LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE, NORTH CENTRAL LAOS.

3. REMARKS:

SINCE SEPTEMBER 1968, THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONSTRUCTED ROUTE 412/4 FROM THE CHINA BORDER NEAR BAN BOTENE, SOUTHEAST TO MUONG SAI. ROUTE 45 WHICH JOINS ROUTE 412/4 AT MUONG SAI AND CONTINUES NORTHEAST TOWARDS MUONG KHOUA AND ROUTE 19, WAS ALSO CONSTRUCTED DURING THIS TIME PERIOD. AT THE ONSET OF THE PREVIOUS RAINY SEASON THE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES CAME TO A HALT.

4. COLLATERAL:

25X1

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

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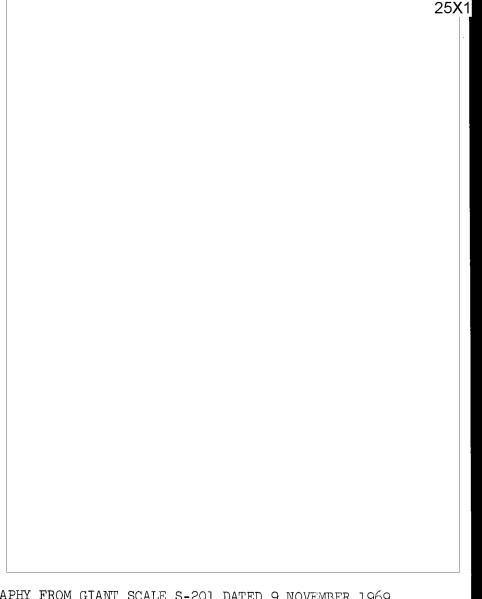
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5. MISSION READOUT: PHOTOGRAPHY FROM GIANT SCALE S-201 DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1969,
REVEALS THE RESUMPTION OF CHINESE COMMUNIST ROAD CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS IN THE

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MUONG SAI AREA OF NORTHERN LAOS. SINCE THE CESSATION OF THE RAINY SEASON,
APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AGO, AN EIGHT NAUTICAL MILE SEGMENT OF MOTORABLE ROAD
HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED FROM THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 4/45 SOUTHWEST ALONG THE
BANKS OF THE NAM NGAO STREAM. AN ADDITIONAL THREE NAUTICAL MILE SEGMENT OF
ROAD CLEARING OPERATIONS IS OBSERVED CONTINUING SOUTHWEST TOWARDS MUONG HOUN
AND THE THAILAND BORDER. INSET #1 DEPICTS THE ROAD'S ORIGIN FROM THE JUNCTION
OF ROUTES 4/45. IT ALSO DEPICTS AREA DEFENSES AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT
FACILITIES. INSET #2 DEPICTS A VULNERABLE SECTION OF THIS ROAD AND ITS BYPASS.
INSET #3 DEPICTS THE MOTORABLE TERMINUS AND SUBSEQUENT CLEARING OPERATIONS.

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